MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1982

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi in Vienna -- Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a press conference in Vienna, reported by Tripoli radio's Voice of Arab Homeland, in which he said Libya attaches great importance to the establishment of useful relations with Western Europe. Libya's oil revenues are spent on constructive projects, aid to poor countries and joint projects with industrial countries, Al-Qadhdhafi claimed, and are not spent on sabotage and terror, as alleged by Zionist propaganda. He said the U.S. "war" on Libyan oil will not harm the Libyan people, but will harm developing countries who receive aid from Libya and will jeopardize joint projects between Libya and the industrial states, thereby causing losses for Western companies. Defending the Palestinian resistance as the legitimate struggle of an expelled people to regain their homeland, Al-Qadhdhafi said President Ronald Reagan believes Zionist claims because he is "ignorant." The Libyan leader also accused Reagan of "terrorizing" African presidents to prevent them from meeting in Libya. However, he added, Libya is ready to resume relations with the United States and knows that since the U.S. President is still new, it is possible for his policy to improve in the future.

Earlier, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky told Vienna radio he had gained the impression that Al-Qadhdhafi is attempting to achieve an opening toward Europe. He said Austria is likely to substantially increase its economic exchange with Libya.

Reaction to Oil Ban -- Libya's Voice of Arab Homeland radio said the United States is wrong to imagine its measures will make the Libyans kneel after being starved.

OAPEC Secretary General 'Ali 'Atiqah also denounced the U.S. ban, according to QNA.

Saudi Arabia

An 8 March editorial by the Jidda paper 'UKAZ called for the expulsion of Libya from the Arab League because of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's "subversive crimes."

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that IDF units were seen moving toward Israel's northern border on 11 March. Meanwhile, Israeli security sources confirmed HA'ARETZ's report that the Syrian Army has established an observation post at Beaufort Castle, according to Jerusalem radio. Voice of Hope radio reported that Maj Sa'd Haddad said Free Lebanon Forces will shell Beaufort Castle even if UNIFIL establishes an observation post there and even if the forces in the castle do not fire at his Free Lebanon Forces.

Phalangist security men arrested four persons responsible for the car bombs in the Christian sector, and one of them admitted having coordinated the incidents with Fatah, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. However, a responsible PLO source said that neither the Palestinian revolution nor any of its officials were connected with the explosions, according to the Voice of Palestine.

Israel

Denial of U.S. Pressure -- Prime Ministerial Adviser Uri Porat denied that the United States has pressured, threatened or warned Israel to deter it from carrying out a military operation in Lebanon, MA'ARIV reported.

Guidance Committee Ban, Village Leagues -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has outlawed the National Guidance Committee in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip because of its links with the PLO and its hostile and subversive activity, Jerusalem radio reported. Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah described the ban as a move toward further oppression in the territories, according to the radio. MA'ARIV reported that Israel is to supply more weapons to the village leagues.

Golan Heights -- The Golan Druzes will have to carry Israeli identification cards starting 1 April, according to ITIM. However, this will not make Druzes Israeli citizens and they will not be liable for military service.

Syria

The Syrian Communist Party issued a statement praising Syria's stand against the United States and Israel and denouncing the Muslim Brotherhood's plots against Syria, Damascus radio reported. The radio also reported on a television interview with a Syrian citizen who was recruited by the Iraqis to detonate a car bomb in Damascus but subsequently gave himself up to the Syrian authorities instead of committing the crime.

PLO

PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi met in Paris with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, according to AFP. Afterward, Qaddumi described their discussion as frank and said it would be inopportune for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit France at the moment. According to the Voice of Palestine, Qaddumi's visit is aimed at clarifying the French Government's new policy toward the Palestinians.

Iran

Extortion Warning, Executions -- Tehran radio broadcast a statement issued by the chief prosecutor's office warning against opportunists and profit-seekers who have approached families of prisoners and attempted extortion on the pretext of being able to achieve amnesties for the prisoners. Those who attempt such traitorous acts, as well as those who bribe them, will be prosecuted and severely punished, the statement added. The amnesty office of the Supreme Court bears sole responsibility for amnesties, the statement said, and no one else can interfere in the process.

Meanwhile, AFP reported that KARGAR, the weekly paper of the unauthorized Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers Movement, charged that the Evin Prison authorities have continued to conduct unpublicized executions and to torture prisoners.

War Reports, Criticism of Saudis -- An armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio claimed that Iranian forces killed or injured about 150 Iraqis during a 9 March battle in the Kur-e Mush region. The radio also reported that Kurdish insurgents inside Iraq recently shot down two Iraqi aircraft.

Iran's Foreign Ministry castigated Saudi Arabia for aiding Iraq in the war, according to IRNA.

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RAFI RETURNS FROM 'EDUCATIONAL' TOUR OF USSR

GF111402 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Defense minister, who was on an educational tour of the USSR, arrived in Kabul today to attend the forthcoming national conference on the PDPA.

He was received at Kabul International airport by Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications; Dr Nazir, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee; Gen Abdol Qader, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and acting defense minister; Gen Gol Aqa, member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Political Affairs Department of the (?combined) armed forces; (?Majiduddin Kaviani), member of the PDPA Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Organizations Department of the PDPA Central Committee; several generals of the armed forces; and high-ranking officials, together with Fikryat Tabeyev, the Soviet ambassador to Kabul, and certain members of his staff.

KARMAL OPENS 8TH PDPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

GF111819 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, inaugurated the Eighth Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee this morning at Golkhana Palace.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports from the meeting hall that the participants gave a standing ovation to Comrade Babrak Karmal upon his arrival at the meeting hall. Those present greeted him with cheers and applause.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, in his (?historic) speech on the occasion, said that the eighth plenum will elaborate the action program for the PDPA, "our party in its 17th year of existence," discuss programs set by the party for the country and make preparations for placing the programs before the upcoming national conference of the PDPA.

Comrade Babrak Karmal also spoke of the heavy responsibilities and demands placed on the shoulders of the PDPA Central Committee. He spoke out for solidarity within the party [words indistinct].

A draft action program for the PDPA, based on the fundamental programs of the PDPA, was placed before the plenum and was approved. It was endorsed amid cheers, applause and in a free and democratic atmosphere. It will be placed before the upcoming national conference of the PDPA.

According to the BAKHTAR correspondent, the resolution regarding the [word indistinct] duties of the party was passed by a unanimous vote. The meeting concluded after approving the time and place for the national conference of the PDPA.

RAO SPEAKS TO DIPLOMATS ON SITUATION IN REGION

BK120509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The external affairs minister has underlined the need for reciprocity in the dealings between nations. Addressing the association of Indian diplomats in New Delhi, Narasimha Rao reaffirmed India's commitment to have friendly relations with its neighbors on the basis of mutuality and sovereign equality. But, he emphasized that this cannot be a one-way effort.

Rao expressed concern at the international and regional situation which, he said, is far from reassuring. He said: What is more frightening is that the cold war is sought to be projected to our very doorstep. The big powers, under the pretext of providing security, are pumping large quantities of sophisticated weapons into the South Asian region and the Indian Ocean states, threatening peace in the whole area.

The external affairs minister strongly defended the nonaligned policy of India and said it is a logical corrollary of national sovereignty and dignity. About dissension within the Nonalignment Movement, Rao said no one can expect a total solidarity of outlook and ideology among the 100 countries that now compose the movement.

DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS RAO, GANDHI

BK111626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said India is optimistic that relations with Pakistan will be normalized. He said this to visiting Danish Foreign Minister K. Olesen in New Delhi today.

During the meeting between the delegations of the two countries, Rao gave an account of the process of dialogue set in motion between India and Pakistan. He also described the events leading to the postponement of Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe's visit to Islamabad.

Olesen offered to step up assistance to India. The two sides agreed that greater scope exists for increasing trade between the two countries. There are 24 Indian projects set with Danish assistance amounting to 430 million rupees. Earlier, Olesen offered more assistance to India.

Danish Foreign Minister Olesen, during his meeting with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today, said his country has already reached the UN target of official development assistance. He also discussed with Mrs Gandhi her coming visit to Denmark. He said the Danish people are eagerly looking forward to it.

Leaves for Bangkok

BK120325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Danish Foreign Minister Olesen left New Delhi this morning for Bangkok after his 2-day visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport among others by Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe.

CHANGES IN INDO-U.S. ECONOMIC RELATIONS VIEWED

BK111407 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Commentary by N.R. Chandran, general manager of PTI, on "India-U.S. economic relations"]

[Text] With most of the political and media attention in the capital being devoted to the New Delhi consultations on the South-South dialogue, another event which took place in Delhi during the same period last month went largely unnoticed.

This was the sixth meeting of the Indo-U.S. economic and commercial subcommission, which was held on 23 and 24 February. The subcommission provides a forum for high-level officials of both governments to review economic and commercial relations between the two countries and to discuss any problem in a frank atmosphere.

As is normal in such meetings, the joint communique issued at the end of their discussions is a somewhat bland document focusing on the areas of agreement between the two sides. In this case, however, it perhaps conceals more than it reveals.

It is well-known that there are significant differences in the perceptions of the two governments on various issues, both bilateral and in the multilateral forums. For example, in the communique the two sides noted with approval that Indo-U.S. trade continued to grow in 1981, reaching a record level of nearly 3 billion dollars. However, except in 1978-79, India has always had an adverse balance of trade with the United States and in recent years the trade gap has been widening. Also, India's share of the gigantic U.S. import market is only around half a percent and even this has been falling over the years.

It cannot be denied that the United States under President Reagan is increasingly becoming an inward-looking society and that pressures for building protectionist walls against imports are mounting in that country. Unfortunately, the first target of such pressures are the products of low technology industries like textiles, footwear and light engineering goods, which are more cheaply produced in developing countries like India, but which are politically sensitive in the United States, especially at a time of deepening recession and mounting unemployment.

It is, therefore, no surprise to find that the United States restricts imports of textile products from practically all developing countries, including India, and there are complicated systems of bilateral textile agreements or that exports of footwear, industrial fasteners and manhole covers from India have been subjected to a special countervailing duty in the United States over and above the general duty payable on these products for the past 2 years.

Apart from bilateral trade, the area of investment is one which is of considerable interest to both countries. The differences caused in the bilateral relationship by India's decision to strictly enforce the conditions enumerated in the foreign exchange regulations act a few years ago which led to the closing down of operations in this country by the two multinational giants -- IBM and Coca Cola -- appeared to have died down now.

The joint communique notes that the American side took note of India's pragmatic approach to investment with a view to facilitating larger foreign participation in high technology areas that contribute to India's export growth and development. The fact of the matter is that the climate for foreign investment in India has never been better than what it is today. For example, the entire export sector is practically open for foreign investment. The problem here seems to be lack of knowledge in the U.S. business community about recent liberalization in India's policy on foreign investment and about India's unblemished record with regard to fears of nationalization and expropriation of foreign companies.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES AID PROJECTS IN MOSCOW

BK120539 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Member secretary of the planning commission Dr Manmohan Singh discussed the progress of various Soviet-aided Indian projects at a meeting in Moscow yesterday.

Dr Singh is heading a six-member team for a meeting of the monitoring group on the Indo-Soviet projects.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH IRAN TO BE REVIEWED

BK111623 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] India and Iran are to review the possibilities of furthering the economic relations between the two countries. A three-member Indian delegation will visit Tehran this week to have discussions on specific economic matters.

Disclosing this to newsmen in Dubai, Secretary for Economic Affairs Ramesh Bhandari [name and title as heard] said we have excellent relations with Iran, Iraq and other countries in the region. Bhandari, who will lead the Indian delegation to Iran, passed through Dubai after attending the Nonaligned ministerial conference in Geneva on the Iran-Iraq war.

ADDITIONAL ATOMIC POWER INSTALLATIONS PROPOSED

BK070809 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Two more units of 235 megawatts are likely to be added to the Narora atomic power complex in Uttar Pradesh in the near future. The Narora complex has been so designed that it will be technically feasible to add more units to it.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, quoting Atomic Energy Commission sources in Bombay, says that six nuclear power units are to be built during the sixth plan. The two-unit atomic power station is to come up at Kakrapara in Gujarat. It will utilize natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator. All the nuclear as well as the conventional components of the project will be made in the country. An expert committee is now examining different parts in Assam for location of a two-unit atomic powerplant.

FIRE, NOT RADIATION, CAUSE OF CHILDREN'S DEATH

BK120537 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The Department of Atomic Energy has denied that any radioactive substance or contamination was involved in the recent incident at the nuclear fuel complex in Hyderabad, in which two children died.

A department spokesman has said in Bombay that, according to preliminary investigation, the death was caused by an accidental fire.

SATELLITE LAUNCHED TO STUDY ATMOSPHERE

BK111505 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] The Vikram Sarabai Space Center [VSSC] at Tumba near Trivandrum in the southern state of Kerala today successfully launched a Centaur rocket to study the atmospheric conditions in the equatorial region. According to a VSSC spokesman, the purpose behind the launching is to study the electronic concentration about the equator.

The rocket, which rose up to a height of 126 km, carried a payload of 71 kg. This has been a joint effort of India, the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria.

HAQ RETURNS, GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE ON TALKS

BK120451 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that there is a ray of hope for an end of war between Iran and Iraq as a result of the flexible attitudes of both countries. He was addressing a news conference at Islamabad Airport last night on his return home after attending the latest meeting of the Islamic peace committee in Jidda and visiting Baghdad, Tehran and some other Middle East countries.

The president said that both Iran and Iraq desire the establishment of peace through the efforts of the Islamic countries. He expressed the hope that the working group which will be formed by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the chairman of the Islamic peace committee, will make consistent efforts to settle this dispute. He said that instead of convening a meeting of all the members of the peace committee, we have authorized President Sekou Toure to continue peace efforts on his own or with the assistance of any other head of state so that progress in this regard is not hampered. President Sekou Toure has also been authorized to convene a meeting of the foreign ministers of the peace committee member countries to help him.

Referring to the peace committee delegation's visits to Baghdad and Tehran, the president said that though there has been no marked change in Iraq's stand, we felt however that it wants an end to the war and the earliest settlement of the dispute through the Islamic peace committee. He said that the new Iranian leadership, including Iranian President Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi and Foreign Minister Velayati, desires peace. However, there has been no apparent change in the Iranian stand regarding the war with Iraq.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that, after visiting the two countries, it was his personal assessment that the special working group's efforts, under President Ahmed Sekou Toure's leadership, will definitely bear positive results. The president thanked King Khalid and the Saudi Arabian Government for providing facilities and extending hospitality to the Islamic peace committee.

Referring to his visit to Syria, the president said that in addition to bilateral relations he exchanged views on international issues during his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that the exchange was useful and encouraging. The president added that he has extended an invitation to President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Pakistan and it has been accepted.

On his visit to Ankara the president said that the overwhelming love and sincerity displayed during the visit reflects a true brotherly spirit. The president made this visit to convey his condolences to the Turkish head of state, Gen Kenan Evren, on the demise of his wife.

On his way back home, the president held talks on bilateral matters and international affairs with King Husayn in Amman and with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi. He said that positive and useful results will emerge from his talks with the heads of state of Turkey, Syria, Jordan and the UAE. He said that Pakistan has a number of sincere friends and, with their consistent goods wishes and the blessings of God, Pakistan will not only continue to prosper but will also be able to play an effective role in international affairs.

When the president was asked whether he has discussed Pakistan-India relations with the heads of Arab states he visited, in light of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's letters to Arab heads of state on the postponement of negotiations on the no-war pact, he said that he was not aware of such letters nor had he raised this issue. However, he has apprised all his friends of Pakistan's viewpoint.

KHOMEYNI OFFERS GUIDANCE TO FRIDAY IMAMS

LD101226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, Friday imams of Mazandaran Province and Dasht-e Gorgan conferred this morning with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The imam of the nation addressed them and said: I thank you gentlemen for coming here and giving me the opportunity to meet you in person. What I would like to remind you is that you see the millions-strong masses of people who are very good and I can say, without any reservations, such a situation has never existed before. Today, the more than 30 million citizens of Iran, except for a small minority, have awakened and would like Islam to be practiced. Today, people eagerly participate in finding solutions to the government's problems.

You should guide the people. If you see an irregularity in your district, you should report it to the government and official authorities. You gentlemen should compensate for the enemy propaganda campaign against us in your Friday sermons and in congregational prayers. You should assure the people that today the government and authorities are trying to put things right and solve our economic problems. You should guide the people and encourage them to do good. Thank God, today despite all the problems created for Iran by the superpowers, Iran is still following the right path.

I beseech Almighty God for your success. My duty is to pray for you gentlemen and for the nation. God willing, I will perform that duty.

FOREIGN MINISTRY HITS SAUDI AID TO IRAQ

LD112152 Tehran IRNA in English 1949 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] 11 Mar (IRNA) -- The Iranian Foreign Ministry today attacked the Saudi Arabian foreign minister for blaming the Islamic Republic for "trying to expand the war with Iraq." In the announcement issued here today, the Foreign Affairs Ministry criticized Mr Nayif, the Saudi foreign minister [name and title as received] for supporting the tottering regime of Saddam Husayn. Lashing out at the Saudi regime for extending various kinds of aid to the Iraqi Government, the announcement pointed out that if Saudi Arabia had [words indistinct] a position [word indistinct] it is extending to Iraq, on the efforts for the liberation of Palestine, "now we would witness the liberation of the holy Al-Quds from the claws of Zionism.

Reiterating that the Iranian nation was seeking peace but that it would never tolerate aggression, the Foreign Ministry announcement further stressed that even if the aggressor was as powerful as the great Satan, the expansionist U.S., "we would rise up against it to defend [word indistinct] and Islam."

In conclusion the announcement warned the governments of the region to beware of the ominous danger of the U.S. policies and unite to thwart the conspiracies of the U.S. and its servants.

CONTROL OF TERRITORIAL WATERS 'BEING DISCUSSED'

GF120604 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Minister of State Nateq-Nuri announced in [word indistinct] Bushehr that the control of the country's territorial waters is one of the issues under consideration by the government and is being (?discussed) by the country's security committee [words indistinct].

The minister of state, who participated in a radio and television interview in Bushehr last night, spoke about security in the country. He said: (?At present) two kinds of plans have been formulated.

The minister of state arrived in Bushehr last (?Tuesday) with his (?entourage) and during the course of his stay met the Friday imam and officials of revolutionary and government organizations of Bushehr Province. He also inspected the [name indistinct] naval base of Bushehr.

Mr Nateq-Nuri left the city after attending the opening ceremony of a religious seminary in Bushehr.

MAJLIS MEMBERS PLEDGE WAR UNTIL VICTORY

LD111112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, at the end of today's session of the Majlis, a letter entitled "War, War Until Victory" was read. The letter has so far been signed by 140 deputies. The following is the text of the letter:

In His exalted name. Following the repeated defeats suffered by America in its plots against the Islamic revolution of Iran it launched a new plot -- the invasion of our Islamic homeland through the dependent Saddam's forces. However, the sacrifices demonstrated by the brave combatants on the battlefronts as well as the devotion and selflessness displayed by the Islamic nation not only frustrated this sinister plot which had been designed by imperialism but also resulted in bringing Saddam's criminal regime to the brink of collapse. Consequently, one hears the promising news of victory of the Islamic revolution in that country.

Thus, it is under these circumstances that the issue of peace and negotiation is raised. We, the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, along with the brave army, the heroic corps and the people's forces, repeat, along with the shouts of millions of our people, the slogan of "War, War Until Victory." We believe that it is only the fighting of our combatants which can determine the future of this imposed war. We shall also prove the good historical tradition, that there is no way out for the aggressor but shame, degradation and flight.

The next Majlis meeting will be held at 0800 on Saturday.

IRAQI KURDS LIST DEMANDS FOR RELEASE OF EXPERTS

LD112206 Tehran IRNA in English 1955 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 11 Mar (IRNA) -- The Political Bureau of the Kurdish Socialist Party [KSP] of Iraq today warned the French Government that the two French nuclear experts (recently kidnapped by the party members) would be released only under the conditions that all political prisoners in [word indistinct] were released, France's aid to Saddam were discontinued and the crimes being committed by the (?Iraqi) regime were disclosed and condemned by the French Government.

In an announcement issued by the KSP of Iraq and put at the disposal of the IRNA office in Urumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Province, all foreign governments have been seriously warned not to dispatch their citizens as experts to Iraq, to save the Iraqi regime which is on the verge of collapse.

On January 25th, 1982, two French nuclear experts, along with an Iraqi officer guarding them, were kidnapped by the Iraqi KSP peshmerga, in the region of [word indistinct] in the Iraqi town of At-Tikriti.

IRAQI KURDS DOWN 2 IRAQI PLANES NEAR BORDER

LD111908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] According to an IRNA dispatch, thanks to intense antiaircraft fire opened by Iraqi Kurdish Muslim combatants deployed in Iraqi Kurdistan, two raiding Ba'thist aircraft were shot down in the border region in the vicinity of Piranshahr a few days ago.

The Public Relations Office of the operational staff command in northwest Iran, quoting reliable sources within Iraqi territory, reported: The said aircraft were shot down before carrying out any operations. We have no report yet as to the fate of the pilots of the enemy aircraft.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 815

LD111755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Communique 815 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. During the battle which took place in the Kur-e Mush region on 9 March the able combatants of the Ground Forces crushed the Iraqi forces and neutralized their efforts while killing or injuring about 150 of Saddam's personnel and taking 2 prisoners.

On the country's western fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued yesterday. These exchanges were more severe on the Gilan-e Gharb front. In Gilan-e Gharb's [words indistinct] region, as a result of the fire mounted by the army's mortar units, a number of enemy trenches and foxholes and an ammunition dump were destroyed. During an engagement at one of the fronts in the Gilan-e Gharb region, the gendarmerie valiants mounted fire on the Saddamists' positions, destroying five trenches and an observation post as well as a heavy machinegun.

The fighting along the entire southern front continued yesterday with our forces protecting their defensive positions through exchanges of artillery fire. On each of this region's fronts, the army's warriors mounted heavy-artillery fire on the enemy positions, thus preventing it from taking any action and bringing the enemy's activities under their control. Our forces also embarked upon a series of surprise operations, inflicting blows on the enemy.

On the Khorramshahr front, the navy's valiant ones answered the enemy fire and by preventing the enemy's engineering units from undertaking any activity, destroyed more than three Iraqi trenches and foxholes. During these operations a number of Iraqi personnel were killed.

The gendarmerie valiants at Arvand Rud succeeded in destroying eight enemy trenches and foxholes, one vehicle carrying a 106-mm cannon and one ammunition dump. The Iraqi aggressor army's casualties in this region were more than 25. The vigilant protectors of this war zone also mounted fire on the Iraqi aggressor airplanes and repulsed their invasion.

During the battle on 9 March 10 selfless warriors of the Ground Forces and 1 personnel of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred on the southern and western fronts. Long live their memories.

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS ON BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD111834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Office of the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful Islam's mighty combatants are continuing their relentless battle against the Saddamist aggressors.

On 9 March 1982, while neutralizing the enemy's futile movements in the Kur-e Mush region and while smashing their positions and equipment, killed or wounded about 150 Saddamist servicemen.

On other western fronts in the country, exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued to rage. On the Sumar front, thanks to artillery fire opened by the self-sacrificing forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on enemy positions, several enemy trenches and foxholes and one vehicle were destroyed and a number of Saddamist aggressors were either killed or wounded.

Also, thanks to artillery fire by our own forces, several enemy trenches and foxholes were destroyed and their servicemen were either killed or wounded in the Tutmal region in Iraq.

On the other hand, the forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, made up of our brother guards and the Mobilization forces, during mopping-up operations on 8 March in the hamlet of Kalkan near Divandarreh, killed 10 armed bandits and wounded a number of them.

LEFTIST CHARGES MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS

NC111538 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 11 Mar (AFP) -- An unauthorised Trotskyist movement has charged that prisoners in Tehran's Evin Prison had been badly treated and that unannounced executions had taken place there.

KARGAR, the weekly organ of the Kargarane Enqelabi (Revolutionary Workers) Movement, in its latest edition, quoted one of its officials being held in the prison.

The paper quoted Bahram 'Ali 'Ata'i, a member of the movement's Political Bureau and formerly a worker at the Iran national automobile factory, on the 82 days he spent at Evin.

"We often heard screams from those who were being whipped by the tazir (Islamic punishment), normally given when a verdict is announced. But many detainees received this while they were still being questioned," Mr 'Ata'i said.

"Two other methods also employed were to hang the prisoner by his hands from a nail, for hours, causing serious injuries to the wrists and hands" and to cross prisoners' hands behind their backs and then hang weights, for hours, from their hands, Mr 'Ata'i added.

He said he could give the names of prisoners who had received such treatment, that resulting wounds "were not treated" and that the victims "could not be visited by their families."

Mr 'Ata'i said prison authorities decided "on their own" on meeting out punishment.

(?He also) spoke of unpublicized executions in the prison, among them that of Shokrollah Paknezhad, former leader of "Palestine group." Mr Paknezhad, a writer, had been condemned to death but pardoned by the former shah following an international campaign in his favor.

Mr 'Ata'i said Mr Paknezhad was taken out during the first week in January from a room six metres square, where he had been confined with 70 others from various political leftist movements, and shot.

He said Mr Paknezhad told him that "he had guessed he would be condemned to die and regretted that public opinion did not know of his arrest."

Most of those detained with Mr Paknezhad, including some Iranian communist party members, had not taken part in armed struggle and did not know why they had been arrested, Mr 'Ata'i said, as reported by KARGAR.

In the prison, according to Mr 'Ata'i, gunfire was heard once a week, followed by coups de grace shots, sometimes numbering as many as 70.

"But in the newspapers that we read in prison, there was no mention of these executions," the Trotskyist militant said.

He said such treatment had gone on "since the beginning of the reign of terror against personalities of (the shah's) regime."

But Mr 'Ata'i said that after religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's speech on the anniversary of the revolution on February 11, calling for a wider amnesty, "the behavior of the guards changed, some saying they would prefer to go and fight on the war front."

But after the attack on the barracks at Vali Asr (which caused 15 deaths on February 22) "many prisoners were given heavy sentences," Mr 'Ata'i said.

ARDABILI ON JAIL SENTENCES, ARMS PURCHASES

LD101740 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 9 Mar (IRNA) -- Life sentences will be commuted to 15 years in jail, said Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili to IRNA today. He further added that those prisoners sentenced up to 15 years of imprisonment would have their terms commuted by half, that of those with sentences between one and ten years in jail will be commuted by two-thirds and those with sentences of less than one year without having private charges against them would be freed.

When asked whether the cases of the ousted Bani-Sadr and the charges against him concerning the March 5th 1981 incident in Tehran University campus last year will be tried in absentia, the chief justice said that such a trial would be useless and it was better to bring back Bani-Sadr and all those involved in the incident who have now fled the country. These people were wanted and under criminal suit and must be handed over to the Iranian Government. He further added that giving asylum to a wanted criminal was against all international principles and practices and, therefore, the necessary measures have been taken to call them to court.

Asked whether in his opinion the purchase of arms from any country would not damage independence of the country, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said that he believed in the implementation of the principle of "Neither Eastern or Western" and [word indistinct] Iran should not depend on others.

In reply to a question as to what would he suggest for thwarting the plots of the United States and its supporters in the region, the chief justice said: "I want to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no expansionist intention...others may be fearful of the [word indistinct] of the message of Islamic revolution but nothing can be done about this and they must adjust themselves with the objective of our revolution's correct human and Islamic principles."

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WARNS AGAINST EXTORTION

LD111212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Statement on New Year amnesty for prionsers issued by chief revolution prosecutor's office; date not given]

[Text] On the basis of Islamic compassion and Imam Khomeyni's paternal blessing for the prisoners and convicts in the country's prisons, and on the order for extensive amnesty issued by the leadership, we draw the attention of the prisoners' and convicts' families to the following points:

(?The amnesty) will be granted in accordance with set criteria. In this connection, the only office engaged in reviewing the cases is that operating directly under the head of the Supreme Court, and no person or official can interfere in this process except the amnesty office. Moreover, recently a number of opportunists and profit seekers have approached some of the families of the prisoners and attempted extortion on the pretext that they could influence amnesty of such-and-such a prisoner.

In the interests of enforcing the law, those who attempt such overt traitorous acts, as well as those who attempt to bribe corrupt opportunists, will be prosecuted and severely punished. The families of the prisoners and all Muslims are asked to report any such cases they encounter to the military and security forces and the authorities.

'HYPOCRITE' ARMS CACHE FOUND IN JAHROM

GF111735 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Following the quick destruction of the hypocrite organization throughout our country and the arrest of a number of hypocrites, achieved as a result of cooperation by the 36-million-strong intelligence organization of the Hezbollahi nation, a hidden armory of the hypocrites was discovered in Jahrom garden.

According to reports, the arms discovered consisted of a number of G-3 guns, 500 rounds of ammunition and 9 magazines, 1 Colt-45 and 14 bullets. The Public Relations Office of District 9 Islamic Revolution Guards Corps thanks the Hezbollahi people for their cooperation and invites them to forward all information to them through Jahrom telephone No 2091.

IRANIAN OPPOSITIONISTS HOLD PROTEST MEETING

NC120802 Paris AFP in English 0705 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Several Iranian opposition parties held a meeting here last night to protest alleged massacres in Iran.

Movies were shown of executions of opposition militants, Kurdish nationalists and narcotics dealers.

Taking part in the meeting were the leftist People's Mojahedin, the Marxist-Leninist Peykar Party, the extreme leftist People's Feda'iyan, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan, the Komeleh (Kurdish Marxist-Leninist party) and the Iranian Writers' Association.

CLANDESTINE ON SOVIET ADVISERS, DPRK 'SPIES'

NC051234 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] The vast navy-air base of the Iranian Armed Forces in Chah Bahar has been placed at the disposal of the Soviet Union by the clerical regime. While relations between the Islamic regime and the Moscow government are expanding each day, world news sources daily reveal part of joint Tehran-Moscow plans as well as increased Soviet infiltration in Iran. In connection with this fact, the widely distributed French newspaper, FIGARO, revealed in its latest issue that the Islamic regime's officials have placed the Iranian Armed Forces' military base in Chah Bahar entirely at the disposal of Soviet military advisers and experts.

This military base, for which all of the plans were completely confidential, was considered to be one of the Iranian Armed Forces' best equipped air-navy bases in the south of our country.

Quoting informed sources, FIGARO adds that apparently the reason for doing so is to use the Soviets' experience in completing the construction of Chah Bahar base, while actually the Soviet military experts intend to implement long-term programs aimed at controlling the entire area.

According to political observers, the regime's mullahs have taken yet another step toward the establishment of Soviet control on the Persian Gulf and from now on all activities in the southern waters of our country will be carefully controlled by Soviet military experts.

We wish to stress that last month the Islamic government allowed the so-called Korean fishing group to -- while cooperating with the southern fisheries department -- actually control the military activities in the Persian Gulf basin, since most of these so-called experts in fishing affairs are actually communist spies who, thanks to the mullahs' suspicious agreement with North Korea, have been stationed in the southern parts of Iran.

Meanwhile, 2 days ago TIME magazine also published a report revealing that the Soviet Union has set up a spying station on Iranian territory near the Pakistani borders and, more precisely, in the Malek Siahkuh area.

PRAVDA CITED ON IRANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

NC101756 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Kremlin officials have expressed a desire for the expansion of relations between the Soviet Union and Khomeyni's regime. PRAVDA, organ of the Soviet Union's Communist Party, has carried an article in which it expresses the dissatisfaction of members of the Politburo, the central leadership cadre of the Soviet Union's Communist Party, with officials of Khomeyni's regime and has claimed that the latter have so far not used the opportunities they have had toward friendly relations, which both countries need. PRAVDA claims that Khomeyni's so-called Islamic regime has even refused to issue Iranian visas for Soviet correspondents.

A Free Voice of Iran correspondent in Tehran reports the Soviets do not need to send spies to Iran in the guise of correspondents or for cultural activities because presently the number of Soviet Embassy employees in Tehran is about four times greater than the number of employees who served in Iran during the late shah's rule. Also, nearly 2,000 experts from the Soviet Union and Soviet satellites are serving in the Islamic regime's institutions.

In relation to the Soviet Union's expansionist tendencies toward Iran -- a manifestation of which is PRAVDA's article -- the Free Voice of Iran correspondent reported that at present most financial, political, cultural and propaganda organizations of the mullahs' regime are being run by members of the detested Tudeh Party, which is the Soviet Union's fifth column.

Therefore, the dissatisfaction expressed by members of the Politburo with the illegal Tehran regime's officials is the Kremlin's emphasis on further closeness to the Soviet Union by Khomeyni's regime, resembling the Soviet Union's relations with Syria and Czechoslovakia. The PRAVDA article is also considered to be a political maneuver by the Soviet Government.